

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AmEmbassy TEHRAN

407

DESP. NO.

January 26, 1961

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : EmbDes 251, November 10, 1960

35 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	IN F O OTHER
	NEA-4	RMIR-2 INR-7 IO-4 EUR-5 MIO-1 MIO-P-1
	2-1	CIA-10 USIA-10 OCB-2 OSD-5 ARMY-4 NAVY-4

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation - Iran-Iraq Relations OCB-2 NSA-2 AIR-6

The enclosed memorandum reports information provided by Dr. Ezatollah AMELI, Chief of the First Political Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Ameli appeared well satisfied with recent trends in Iran's relations with Iraq but did not radiate any optimism on prospects for an early settlement of outstanding differences between the two countries. Dr. Ameli personally favors maintaining relations in their improved form as the best means of making progress toward an eventual settlement and indicated that he is opposed to the idea of making continued good relations appear to be dependent upon an Iraqi concession to negotiate seriously.

Although the Government of Iraq has relaxed its visa restrictions for Iranian pilgrims, the Iranian Government has not authorized its citizens to travel to Iraq solely for this purpose.

Background information regarding the Alvand River and Iranian diversion of waters flowing into Iraq is contained in Embassy Despatch 209 of September 30, 1959.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Enc: Memo of Con.

cc: AmEmbassy BAGHDAD
LONDONAmCon BASRA
All Consulate IRAN

Harry H. Schwartz
Counselor of Embassy for
Political Affairs

JPMulligan/hfo
REPORTER

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CLASSIFIED

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From: AmEmbassy TEHRAN

SUBJECT: Iran-Iraq Relations

PLACE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ezatollah AMELI, Chief, First Political Division
J. P. Mulligan, Second Secretary, American Embassy, Tehran

Dr. Ameli provided the following information and comment on the present status of Iran's relations with Iraq.

1. Speculation in the press that Iraqi Foreign Minister JAWAD has been invited to visit Tehran is premature and grew out of Jawad's brief visit to Abadan recently. The Ministry has considered proposing that such an invitation be extended but has not yet done so and has not discussed nor explored the idea with Iraqi officials.
2. Speculation in the press that Iraqi Foreign Minister JAWAD has been invited to visit Tehran is premature and grew out of Jawad's brief visit to Abadan recently. The Ministry has considered proposing that such an invitation be extended but has not yet done so and has not discussed nor explored the idea with Iraqi officials.
3. The Director of Iraqi Ports and the Military Commandant from Basra are expected to visit Abadan and Khorramshahr this week. They will be the principal Iraqi spectators at a football (soccer) match between Iraqi and Iranian teams. The playing of this match and the attendance of these officials is indicative of the improved state of relations between the two countries.
4. These relations continue to improve and Dr. Ameli expressed the hope that attempts to settle differences between the two countries will not prejudice this improvement. He said that in his advice to the Foreign Minister and to high level officials of the Ministry, he has stressed the importance of maintaining good relations as the best hope for arriving at an ultimate solution of mutual problems. He indicated that the alternative to this policy is to act as though the continuance of good relations depends upon progress toward a settlement of differences, and that he believes this would be non-productive and shortsighted.
5. Relations between the Foreign Ministry and the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran are excellent. Ambassador Amin (Abdul Muttulib AMIN) has been cooperative, sincere and understanding in his contacts with the Ministry.
6. The Iraqi Government has eased its restrictions on the issuance of visas to Iranians proceeding to Iraq for business or to visit relatives living in Iraq and has also authorized the travel of Iranian pilgrims to the religious shrines in Iraq during the months in which such pilgrimages are customarily made. The Iranian Government has not authorized a resumption of general pilgrim travel to Iraq but has had this question under more or less continuous consideration.

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7. The question of river diversion and water rights along the Iran-Iraq border, which has disturbed the Iraqi Government in the past, is a part of the over-all boundary problem and this aspect of that problem should not be separated from the Shatt-al-Arab question. The issues which have arisen regarding water which flows from the mountains of Iran to the valleys and plains in Iraq can be resolved but are not urgent at the moment. Differences over the Alvand River have been resolved already, because: (1) even though Iran intends using the waters of this river for local power and irrigation with the aid of a dam at Qasr-i-Shirin, an ample supply of water is assured and will continue to flow to Khanaqin in Iraq; (2) the Iraqi Government has constructed a canal which connects two streams above Khanaqin, thereby increasing the amount of water available to the area below, where it is needed.

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